GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:731
ANSWERED ON:21.02.2003
PRICES OF SILK
PUTTASWAMY GOWDA

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have increased the price of imported silk of China;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) its impact on domestic market; and

(d) the steps taken to protect the interests of domestic market?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)

(a) to (c) The Government of India vide Customs`Notification No. 2/2003 dated 2nd January, 2003 has imposed antidumping duty equivalent to the difference between the amount of US $ 33.19 per kg and the landed value ofimported mulberry raw silk (not thrown), 2A grade and below, originating in, or exported from, Peoples` Republic of China.The said antidumping duty has been imposed provisionally, pending final determination and shall be effective upto 1st July, 2003. Its exact impact on domestic market cannot be assessed so early though there seems to be marginal increase in the domestic prices of raw silk and reeling cocoons.

(d) Government has taken the following steps to protect the interests of domestic market-

i. The central and centrally sponsored sericulture schemes of X Plan period aim to substantially expand mulberry silk and non-mulberry silk production, by assisting and supporting quality and productivity in on farm and post farm activities. Measures include the adoption of bivoltine sericulture to improve quality of Indian silk to international standards and its productivity and cost competitiveness, improve technologies at all stages of the process of silk development, encouragement to clustering of activities of reeling and weaving and strengthen linkages between the producers and industry and diversify products with inputs for improvement of looms and designs to expand the export share of the country.

ii. Central Silk Board (CSB) operates raw material banks and provides margin money to the State marketing agencies to ensure fair price to sericulture farmers; and

iii. For technological upgradation of the industry loan at 5% point less than applicable rate, under the Technological Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for the textile sector is available inter alia to silk sector.
viv. Import of raw silk has been liberlaized by being brought under Open General Licence (OGL), which has increased availability of good quality silk